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LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the United States Air Force continues to violate Iraqi airspace. The details of the most recent violations are as follows:

I. 18/19 August 1991:

1. United States aircraft carried out a total of 22 sorties into Iraqi airspace. These sorties were conducted by nine formations of two aircraft each, one formation of three aircraft and one aircraft flying solo at speeds of 600 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of 4,000 to 7,000 metres. They were centred over the regions of Mosul, Arbil, Dohuk, Zakho and Amadiyah and had the dual objective of observation and provocation.

2. At 0850 hours, an unidentified target coming from Safwan violated Iraqi airspace. It was an aircraft flying at a speed of 600 km/h, which penetrated our airspace for a distance of 35 km before returning to Kuwaiti airspace and disappearing from our view at 0926 hours.

3. At 1328 hours an unidentified target coming from the area north of Bubiyan violated Iraqi airspace. It was an aircraft flying at a speed of 480 km/h, which penetrated our airspace for a distance of 15 km before re-entering Kuwaiti airspace and disappearing from our view at 1135 hours.

II. 19/20 August 1991:

1. During this period, the United States Air Force continued its activities within Iraqi airspace for the purpose of observation and provocation. It thus made 20 sorties, carried out by eight formations of two aircraft each and four aircraft flying solo.

2. These sorties, which were conducted at speeds of 600 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of 5,000 to 6,000 metres, were centred over the regions of Arbil, Mosul, Dohuk, Rawanduz and Amadiyah and had the dual objective of observation and provocation.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative